

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 37-45 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 37-45 are added as new claims. Independent claims 12, 24 and 36, which were previously indicated by the Examiner as being allowed, have been canceled, and are hereby replaced with new independent claims 37, 40 and 43. Applicants note that claims 1-11, 13-23 and 25-35 were canceled in the amendment filed on November 2, 2004.

New claim 37 recites the features of recording dummy data on a region adjacent to a first sector contained in each block and a region adjacent to a last sector contained in each block, and recording an end dummy data on a region adjacent to the dummy data recorded on the region adjacent to the last sector contained in a final block included in the content, wherein the end dummy data has a different length from the dummy data recorded on the regions adjacent to the first and last sectors contained in each block included in the content. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features recited in claim 37.

For example, as indicated in the Amendment filed on November 2, 2004, Koishi (U.S. 5,850,382) discloses an optical disk in which dummy data is recorded on sectors 71 and 72 (see Fig. 9). As shown in Fig. 9 of Koishi, dummy data is recorded on sector 71 in the read-only area 3 of the disk at the junction with the rewritable area 5 (see col. 20, lines 56-59). Similarly, dummy data is also recorded on sector 72 in the read-only area 2 at the junction with the rewritable area 5 (see col. 20, lines 59-60).

Applicants submit, however, that Koishi does not disclose dummy data recorded after each block included in the content. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Koishi fails to disclose or suggest recording dummy data on a region adjacent to a first sector contained in each block and a region adjacent to a last sector contained in each block, and recording an end dummy data on a region adjacent to the dummy data recorded on the region adjacent to the last sector contained in a final block included in the content, as recited in new claim 37.

Therefore, as Koishi does not disclose or suggest recording dummy data in these regions, Applicants submit that Koishi also fails to disclose or suggest that end dummy data has a different length from dummy data recorded on the regions adjacent to the first and last sectors contained in each block included in the content, as recited in new claim 37.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 37 is patentable over Koishi, an indication of which is respectfully requested. Claims 38 and 39 depend from claim 37 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 40 and 43, Applicants note that these claims recite similar features as discussed above regarding claim 37. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 40 and 43 are patentable for at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 37. Claims 41 and 42 depend from claim 40, and claims 44 and 45 depend from claim 43. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 41, 42, 44 and 45 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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